

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10582 112036Z
ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: IRAQ'S VICE PRESIDENT VISITS INDIA

1. IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT TAHA MAROUF VISITED INDIA
JULY 5-7 ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DR.
SADOON HAMMADI. MAROUF'S SCHEDULE INCUDED 90
MINUTES OF TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI, SEPARATE
MEETINGS WITH THE INDIAN MINISTERS FOR INDUSTRY,
DEFENSE AND RAILWAYS, AND A QUICK TRIP TO AGRA. IN
THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED AT THE END OF MAROUF'S
VISIT BOTH SIDES:

-- REFERRED TO THE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THEIR
TALKS AND DECLARED THEMSELVES SATISFIED WITH THE
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 10582 112036Z

DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS;

-- EXPRESSED SATIFACTION WITH THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING
OF THEINDO-IRAQ JOINT COMMISSION;

-- NOTED THE COOPERATION EXTENDED BY INDIA IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF IRAQ'S DE ELOPMENT PROGRAM;

-- EMPHASIZED THE "LASTING VALIDITY" OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND REMARKED THAT THE NAM HAD "EMERGED AS A FORMIDABLE MORAL FORCE AGAINST ALL EVILS CONFRONTING MANKIND, PARTICULARLY ALL FORMS OF COLONIALISM, ZIONISM, ALIEN DOMINATION AND APARTHEID;"

-- DEEMED "IMPERATIVE" ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER; AND

-- CALLED FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN DECLARATION ON "ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE INCLUDING ITS NATURAL EXTENSIONS."

IN ADDITION, THE COMMUNIQUE REPEATED STANDARD NON-ALIGNED WORDING ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA AND REPORTED THAT MAROUF HAD RENEWED-- WITH DESAI AGAIN ACCEPTING IN PRINCIPLE--AN INVITATION TO VISIT IRAQ.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE TWO SIDES REACHED A "BROAD MEASURE" OF AGREEMENT DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS, A NOTABLE EXCEPTION ARISING, HOWEVER, REGARDING THE ERITREAN SITUATION. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE HORN OF AFRICA DID NOT RATE MENTION IN THE COMMUNIQUE, BUT IRAQ REPORTEDLY DENIED THAT ERITREA HAD EVER BEEN A PART OF ETHIOPIA, WHILE INDIA ACCEPTS ERITREA AS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10582 112036Z

PART OF ETHIOPIA. HOWEVER, REPORTS SAY THEY AGREED THAT THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY. CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN, INDIA AND IRAQ REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL HAD MADE NO POLICY SHIFT WHICH COULD CAUSE CONCERN FOR REGIONAL STABILITY.

3. SEPARATE TALKS BETWEEN DR. HAMMADI AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE ARE REPORTED TO HAVE FOCUSED ON THE HORN OF AFRICA. IN ADDITION, HAMMADI REPORTEDLY "APPRECIATED" INDIA'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH AND SRI LANKA, BOTH OF WHICH HE AND THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD JUST VISITED. SPEAKING OF THE UPCOMING BELGRADE MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS, VAJPAYEE AND HAMMADI ARE SAID TO HAVE AGREED THAT BILATERAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND NOT RAISED IN NON-ALIGNED FORUMS.

4. WHILE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAD LITTLE TO SAY REGARDING INDO-IRAQI COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, ACCORDING TO PRESS STORIES, MAROUF WELCOMED FURTHER PARTICI-

PATION BY INDIAN FIRMS IN IRAQI DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
AND PROMISED THAT TENDERS FROM INDIAN COMPANIES WOULD
RECEIVE "SYMPATHETIC AND PREFERENTIAL" CONSIDERATION
WHEN CONTRACTS WERE AWARDED.
GOHEEN

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